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### Akin Joins Director of NSF in Tour of Antarctic Research Stations

Washington, D.C.- Congressman Todd Akin is participating in a tour of U.S. research stations on the Antarctic continent during the current congressional recess. National Science Foundation (NSF) Director Rita Colwell will lead the delegation.

The delegation begins its trip to the Antarctic from Andrews Air Force Base today. Akin will be returning January 21. Congressman Akin is a member to the House Science Committee and an engineer by training. He is joining the Congressional Delegation (Codel) trip at the request of Science Committee Chairman Sherwood Boehlert (R-NY).

The six-member delegation is composed of U.S. Representatives who serve on the Science Committee. The committee has jurisdiction over the NSF, the lead agency for the U.S. Antarctic Program and other participating agencies including NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The U.S. Antarctic Program (USAP) performs advanced research that contributes to such fields as astronomy, biology and atmospheric and earth science. The program maintains three research stations on the Antarctic continent.

The facilities research includes monitoring the ozone layer and factors that may affect sea levels and global climate patterns.